

has joined FBI Director Louis Freeh in calling for an independent counsel to find out the truth about Communist Chinese money funneled into the Democratic Party during the 1996 elections.

Of all the independent counsel matters currently under investigation, this particular allegation is perhaps the most serious one of all. If one party systematically violates the campaign finance laws, compromised national security with respect to our relations with Communist China, and then lied about doing any such thing, that is an attack on democracy.

If Janet Reno continues to block this investigation, in the words of the New York Times, "this will go down as a black mark against justice every bit as historic as any in our history."

#### JANET RENO'S FAILURE TO UPHOLD THE LAW

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I think most of us can agree this morning that the one basic task for the Attorney General is to uphold the Nation's laws. Yet, Janet Reno is refusing to do that by not appointing an independent prosecutor to investigate campaign abuses by officials in the Clinton administration.

She is acting a lot like Rip Van Winkle, who was asleep for over a year. She has been asleep for the last year as her two top investigators, FBI Director Louis Freeh and the head of the Justice Task Force Charles LaBella have recommended an appointment of an independent prosecutor.

The law is clear. The appointment of an independent counsel should be automatically triggered with just the hint of laws being broken by such officials. What more does she need?

But meanwhile, the Attorney General Janet Reno keeps sitting on her hands blind to the evidence and, Mr. Speaker, blind to the law.

#### ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1-year anniversary of the Taxpayer Relief Act, an historic piece of legislation that consisted of the first significant tax cut since the Reagan tax cuts of the early 1980s.

Let us face it, the Taxpayer Relief Act would never have passed had it not been for a Republican Congress. Let us remember that the idea we could balance the budget and pass tax relief was ridiculed by our worthy opponents on the other side right here in this body almost daily not too long ago.

Let us also remember that welfare reform would never have happened had

it not been for the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994. The IRS reform bill passed this summer. Not a chance if the Republicans had not held the majority. And last summer's Medicare reform legislation, which postponed bankruptcy from 2001 and 2010, it took a Republican Congress to push for Medicare reform in the face of the most constant, shameless demagoguery about good-faith efforts to reform Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, elections do matter. Balanced budgets, tax cuts, welfare reform, IRS reform, and Medicare reform. That is the reality of the Republican Congress.

□ 1015

#### NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I hope Americans will take time during the week of August 9 to note the accomplishments and contributions that truck drivers and the trucking industry have made to our lives and the prosperity of the American economy.

Consider:

From 1986 to 1996, the fatality rate for large trucks fell by 35 percent, while large truck mileage increased by 40 percent. The trucking industry employs nearly 9.5 million Americans. More than 423,000 companies in the United States are involved in trucking. In 1996 the trucking industry generated \$346 billion in gross revenues, hauling 6.5 billion tons of freight. Incidentally, that represents 82 percent of the Nation's freight bill.

I encourage everyone to celebrate the great safety record and the contribution to our well-being of America's truckers by making August 9 to August 15 National Truck Driver Appreciation Week.

#### MENTAL HEALTH

(Mrs. ROUKEMA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, last week two members of the Capitol Police force here were killed in the line of duty here at the Capitol. The senseless death of those two police officers has proved to the world what many of us already knew namely that there are gaping holes in the network of services designed to identify and treat people with mental illness. But I tell my colleagues something good must come from this tragedy, and we must work towards a lasting memorial for these valiant officers.

More and more Americans are witnessing in their communities every day the violence resulting from the failed

policy of deinstitutionalization and untreated mental illness. Last year alone, over 1,000 homicides were directly attributable to improperly treated mental illness.

I therefore call the attention of my colleagues to the initiative that the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and I are taking, urging that Speaker GINGRICH and the House leadership appoint a task force to have a serious evaluation, including public hearings, on the failures of the system that result in violence in every community in this country that results from untreated mental illness.

I ask again, join us. Something good must come from this tragedy.

#### MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee on Commerce will consider legislation reauthorizing the Mammography Quality Standards Act, a program which has saved countless lives by improving the quality and accuracy of life-saving breast cancer screenings. While we improve early detection and screening of this deadly disease, women who suffer from breast cancer continue to be denied the best medical treatments available because medical decisions are too often made by insurance company HMO bureaucrats.

The bipartisan Patients Bill of Rights would ensure that women could stay in the hospital overnight following radical breast surgery. The Republican bill does not. The bipartisan Patients Bill of Rights would ensure that women can receive reconstructive surgery following mastectomy. The Republican bill does not.

This House has passed the Republican Insurance Company Bill of Rights. I urge my colleagues to do the right thing. Insist on a real Patients Bill of Rights, legislation which provides real protections for women.

#### 2000 CENSUS

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask a simple question: Why would the President want to shut down the government over the census? He once said, "It is deeply wrong to shut down the government while we negotiate." Now he says he will veto a bill that would in fact close down the FBI, close down the courts, and bring home the Border Patrol unless Congress gives him his plan for the 2000 census. That plan is one to be done by polling, not counting individual citizens. We all know the margin of error in polling.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Congress wants to save the 2000 census. The GAO and the Commerce Department's own Inspectors General have

warned that we are headed toward a failure in the census. We believe that before America spends \$4 billion on the census done by polling, we should find a way to do it the way we have for 200 years, by counting each American.

#### MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Mr. GREEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues a letter I recently received from two Republican State legislators from Texas.

Representative John Smithee, Chairman of the House Committee on Insurance, and Senator David Sibley, Chairman of the Committee on Economic Development opened their letter with a plea to Congress not to disturb the substantial progress already achieved in Texas on managed care reform. Their letter is written because the two Republican leaders of the legislature in Texas read the Gingrich Insurance Protection Act that was passed by the House and they know what it would do to the protections already passed by the Texas legislature. It would render them useless.

In place of the strong patient protections passed in Texas, which include HMO accountability, binding independent reviews, coverage for emergency care and the elimination of gag clauses, Texas would be left with a sham bill that for every patient protection, it gives the insurance companies a loophole they can drive a truck through because of the bill that passed on this floor.

Like many States around the country, Texas has passed laws that meet the needs of its citizens to deal with insurance companies licensed by the State. We should not undermine their work, we should complement it on a national basis.

#### THE FIRESTORM COMETH

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people criticize the current scandal, the most visible, the most popular scandal at the White House as being overblown and overdiscussed and so forth. I think perhaps that they have something to say. I think there is a lot of validity in that statement.

I for one frankly am a lot more concerned about why the Chinese communists funneled into the Democrat National Party \$3 million in illegal contributions during the last election. What was that all about? And why suddenly after that did we give them unprecedented missile technology, transfers from Loral Corporation, whose CEO Bernie Schwartz gave \$600,000 personally to the reelection efforts of the Democrats and the President.

But this is something that is not just Republicans getting mad at Democrats. This is what the liberal-leaning, Democrat-endorsing New York Times said, that Charles LaBella, who has been leading the Department of Justice campaign finance investigation, has now advised Attorney General Janet Reno that under both the mandatory and discretionary provisions of the Independent Counsel Act, she must appoint an outside prosecutor to take over this.

I agree with Mr. LaBella. It is time to have an outside prosecutor to figure out why 3 million illegal contribution dollars went to the Democrat Party.

#### CENSUS

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, later this morning we will be having a debate over the upcoming decennial census concerning an amendment by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN). Unfortunately this issue has become very politicized, and that is wrong because the census should not be part of the political debate here, it should be just counting people in this country, not speculating and guesstimating by utilizing polling techniques. That is what exactly has been proposed by the President.

What the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the committee, has proposed is that the decision be made next spring. That is under agreement by the President, by the Census Bureau, the decision should be made next spring. That is when we should face the decision.

Unfortunately the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) says, "Congress, you're not relevant in this decision. We think only the President knows best to decide and we'll let the President decide next spring and we're not interested in what Congress has to say on the issue." What we believe is it should be a bipartisan decision next spring when all the facts are in, we can make the decision, not now, and we should have an agreement with Congress, the Democrats and the Republicans and the Administration. That is what we want to do. I hope everybody will vote down the Mollohan amendment.

#### PROVIDING AMOUNTS FOR FURTHER EXPENSES OF COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H.Res. 506) providing amounts for further expenses of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in the second session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 506

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. FURTHER EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.

For further expenses of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "committee"), there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives not more than \$200,000.

#### SEC. 2. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee, signed by the chairman of the committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Oversight.

#### SEC. 3. LIMITATION.

Amounts shall be available under this resolution for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 1998, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 1999.

#### SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Oversight.

#### SEC. 5. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Oversight shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any reduction in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4276, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

#### DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 508 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4276.

□ 1025

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole